VPTs by private Companies

†4549. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified those private sector companies who have not achieved the target for establishing telephone facility in rural sector by March, 2002;

(b) if so, the names of such companies and names of the circles where these companies have not achieved the targets; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action against these companies and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Names of the companies and Circles where they have not achieved the targets, are given in the Statement. *(See* below)

(c) The Government has in fact, been regularly monitoring and reviewing their plans and performance in respect of provisions of VPTs. Government has recovered Liquidated Damage (LD) charges for delay in performance by the defaulting companies and made it clear that their committed performance obligations cannot be diluted in any case. Government has asked these companies to complete the unfulfilled committed roll out obligations by December 2002 against submission of Additional Performance Bank Guarantees and Deed of Guarantees. Further, Government has already taken appropriate steps to resolve problems raised by them.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) by Private Licensees

Sl. No.	Licensee and Licensed Circle	Effective Date of Licence	Committed targets for VPTs in first Three years (as per obligations under Licence Agreement)			Total No. of Committed VPTs in 1st 3 years	No. of VPTs provided by 30.4.2002
			I Year	II Year	III Year		
1.	M/s Tata Teleservices (Andhra Pradesh)	30.9.1997	9635 (by 30.9.1998)	(all villages were to be covered in first year *i.e.* by 30.9.1998)		9635	114
2.	M/s Reliance Telecom (Gujarat)	30.9.1997	8635 (by 30.9.1998)	(all villages were to be covered in first year *i.e.* by 30.9.1998)		8635	2
3.	M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd (Punjab)	30.9.1997	5442 (by 30.9.1998)	(all villages were to be covered in first year *i.e.* by 30.9.1998)		5442	32
4.	M/s Hughes Telecom (India) Limited (Maharashtra)	30.9.1997	4000 (by 30.9.1998)	21760 (by 30.9.1998)	(No. village was to be left uncovered by 30.9.99)	25760	161
5.	M/s Bharti Telenit (Madhya Pradsh)	30.9.1997	5500 (by 30.9.1998)	5550 (by 30.9.1999)	5500 (by 30.9.2000)	16500	348
6.	M/s Shyam Telelink (Rajasthan)	04.3.1998	7439 (by 04.3.1999)	10629 (by 04.3.2000)	13766 (by 4.3.2001)	31834 [36727]	249
	TOTAL:		40651	37889	19266	97806	906